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Mr. Gerald B. Clute

Hospital Association of Southern CA

Robert Flashman, M.D.

LA County Medical Association

Clayton Kazan, M.D.

California Chapter-American College of

Emergency Physicians (CAL-ACEP)

Mr. Daryl Parrish

League of Calif. Cities/LA County Division

Lt. Andres Ramirez

Peace Officers Association of LA County

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LA Chapter-Fire Chiefs Association

Areti Tillou, M.D.

LA Surgical Society

Mr. Gary Washburn

Public Member (5th District)

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Southern California Public Health Assn.

VACANT

American Heart Association

Western States Affiliate

VACANT

Public Member (1st District)

Public Member (2nd District)

Public Member (3rd District)

Executive Director

Cathy Chidester

Director, EMS Agency

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COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COMMISSION

10100 Pioneer Boulevard, Suite 200, Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670

TEL: (562) 347-1500 ~ FAX (562) 941-5835

MINUTES March 20, 2013

COMMISSIONERS	ORGANIZATION	EMS AGENCY STAFF	POSITION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> David Austin	LAC Ambulance Assn	Cathy Chidester	Director, EMS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Robert Barnes	LAC Police Chiefs Assn	William Koenig, MD	Medical Director, EMS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Erick H. Cheung, MD	So. CA Psychiatric Society	Kay Fruhwirth	Asst. Director, EMS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gerald B. Clute	HASC	Richard Tadeo	Assistant Director, EMS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Robert Flashman, MD	L.A. County Medical Assn	Marilyn Rideaux	EMSC Liaison
<input type="checkbox"/> Clayton Kazan, MD (Exc)	CAL/ACEP	Lucy Hickey	Staff, EMS Agency
<input type="checkbox"/> Ray Mosack (Exc)	CA State Firefighters' Assn.	David Wells	Staff, EMS Agency
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Daryl Parrish	League of California Cities	John Telmos	Staff, EMS Agency
<input type="checkbox"/> Andres Ramirez (Exc)	Peace Officers Assn. of LAC	Michele Hanley	Staff, EMS Agency
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carole Snyder	Emergency Nurses Assn.	Stephanie Raby	Staff, EMS Agency
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jon Thompson	LA Chapter/Fire Chiefs Assn	Dana Scala	Staff, EMS Agency
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Areti Tillou, MD	L.A. Surgical Society	N. Bosson	Staff, EMS Agency
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gary Washburn	Public Member, 5 th District		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Frank Binch	Public Member, 4 th District		
<input type="checkbox"/> Bernard Weintraub (Exc)	S. CA Public Health Assn.		
GUESTS			
Victoria Hernandez	LAC-FD	Brian Hudson	Torrance Fire
Alina Candal	PIH/APCC	Kristine Crews	APCC/LBMMC
Jesse Vela	LACoFD	Sean English	Pasadena Fire
Nicole Steeneken	LAC-FD	Jeff Elder	LAFD

(Ab) = Absent; (Exc) = Excused Absence

CALL TO ORDER:

The Emergency Medical Services Commission (EMSC) meeting was held in the EMS Commission Hearing Room, 10100 Pioneer Blvd, Santa Fe Springs, 90670. The meeting was called to order at 1:06 PM by Vice Chair, Carole Snyder. A quorum was declared.

INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Each Commissioner and audience attendee introduced him/herself.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

M/S/C: Commissioner Austin/Parrish to approve all items on the Consent Calendar.

5. BUSINESS (Old Business)

5.1 Status of Policy Initiatives

- *Physician Services for Indigent Patients (PSIP) Auditor-Controller Report*

Ms. Chidester reported that the EMSC requested that a letter signed by the EMS Commission Chair go forward to the Board of Supervisors requesting \$9 million of Measure B funds be allocated to PSIP. As directed, the EMS Agency forwarded the requested letter about three weeks ago requesting that \$9 million of Measure B funds be transferred to the PSIP program to bring the physician reimbursement rate back up to 14 percent.

SB 191 (Padilla) is being sponsored by CAL/ACEP and co-sponsored by Los Angeles (LA) County. This bill would remove the sunset clause on the current SB 1773. It would reauthorize an important funding stream that supports both pediatric trauma care and the Maddy Emergency Medical Services Fund, which is used to reimburse emergency physicians, on-call physicians, hospitals, and local EMS services for treating the uninsured. It raises approximately \$50 million annually to preserve the emergency care safety net.

5.2 Community Paramedic

Ms. Chidester reported that community paramedic programs are being established throughout the country, particularly being piloted in the state of Texas. The purpose of the programs implemented and piloted to date has focused on assisting patients with chronic medical problems who frequently access the 9-1-1 system. These programs would expand the paramedic scope of practice and pilot projects are being considered in California.

The EMS Authority in conjunction with the UC Davis Healthcare Foundation created a white paper on the subject and a meeting was held recently at the State EMS Authority to discuss the concept of Community Paramedic and how it would be integrated in local systems. LA County EMS was represented by Cathy Chidester and William Koenig, M.D. Ms. Chidester proposed forming a steering committee consisting of members of the LA Ambulance Association, LA Area Fire Chiefs Association and HASC to discuss and determine the feasibility of a pilot project in LA County.

5.3 1 + 1 Paramedic Staffing Model

Ms. Chidester opened discussion with a brief background of the birth of the paramedic system in LA County. A copy of a June 12, 1979 approved Board motion regarding two paramedics staffing as the definition of a paramedic unit was distributed to the EMS Commissioners.

Ms. Chidester provided the recent history regarding the development Reference No. 407: *Advanced Life Support Unit Alternate Staffing Pilot Program Requirements* and its current status and the proposal by Long Beach Fire Department for implementing a pilot of an alternate staffing program. What follows is a summary of the discussion.

At the request of the EMS Commission, the EMS Agency convened a Governance Committee in 2012 of concerned stakeholders to develop a draft policy on Alternate Staffing and the criteria for evaluating pilot project submissions. Ms. Chidester stated

that the members of the Governance Committee felt that a pilot program should include a very robust data system so that field activity could be tracked, allow for hands free communication and include specific quality improvement and specific education requirements. These areas were incorporated into the draft policy. The draft policy was on the agenda as an action item for the Provider Agency Advisory Committee (PAAC) in February, however it was tabled. It will be reviewed by Base Hospital Advisory Committee (BHAC) and revisited by PAAC in April and will be presented to the EMS Commission in May for action.

Ms. Chidester went on to advise the Commission that two documents would be forwarded to them prior to the May 15, 2013 EMS Commission meeting (approximately by April 20), the draft Reference No. 407 that defines what needs to be included in the proposal for conducting an alternate paramedic staffing pilot program and Long Beach Fire Department's proposal to conduct an alternate staffing pilot program.

Dr. William Koenig, EMS Medical Director stated that the issue at hand was a complex one and that there is nothing documented to indicate that one method worked better than the other. The concept proposed is for two paramedics to arrive at the scene but in separate vehicles. He encouraged the EMS Commission members to thoroughly review the proposal prior to the May 15 meeting and be prepared to answer questions. Ms. Chidester commented that there would most likely be a lot of questions as well as public testimony at the April 17 PAAC meeting and the May 15 EMS Commission meeting.

Commissioner David Austin requested that Ms. Chidester provide an overview on the Governance Committee and why this approach was used for development of this policy, as well as, past successes with Governance Committees. Ms. Chidester advised that members of any Governance Committee are selected based upon the topic of the discussion. Commissioner Frank Binch asked the following questions:

- Who represented the EMS Commission on the Committee?
Austin: Myself and Commissioner Ray Mosack
- Has the EMS Agency received any documentation from Long Beach in reference to its proposal?
Chidester: Long Beach submitted a draft proposal under a cover letter but the Agency advised them that more work was needed on the draft and have asked for them to resubmit their proposal with the additional information incorporated by April 15, 2013
- Who chose the EMS Commission representatives for the Governance Committee?
Chidester: The PAAC recommended that a Governance Committee be formed to review the draft proposal. Commissioner Mosack, as Chair of PAAC, volunteered to serve on the Committee as well a Commissioner Austin.

Commissioner Binch stated he wanted it on record that he was very concerned about the real transparency of the process.

"I am very concerned about the real transparency of this process and I'm uncomfortable that a change in staffing pattern that appears to be actually, one that the Department (based upon the press reports that I have seen) would implement throughout the organization rather than a selected geography, what I believe is the second largest city in the county. I 'm

concerned that a change concerning emergency care and particularly paramedic care where patients are certainly at risk, is not being vetted in a far more transparent manner than what you are reporting. That's my personal view. I'd be interested in and I'm going to suggest that whatever documentation you have be made available to anyone on the Commission who would like to have it and that would include the research, draft proposal from Long Beach, your responses, and the list of people on the Governing Committee. Let's get it all out in the open."

Action: At the request of Commissioner Binch, assemble and forward all documentation available regarding 1 + 1 paramedic staffing and Long Beach Fire's proposal to the EMS Commission.

Responsibility: EMS Agency

Commissioner Binch inquired about the length of time the EMS Agency has had Long Beach Fire Department's alternate staffing pilot project proposal. Ms. Chidester replied that it has been since May 2012 and since then it has been with the Governance Committee. Long Beach has been requested to resubmit a revised/updated proposal which is expected to be received in April. Once it has been received it will be distributed to the EMS Commission as well. The Commission asked that a written report be requested from the Fire Chief of Long Beach and the Labor Chief regarding their position on the pilot project prior to the May 15 meeting.

Motion by Commissioner Cheung, second by Commissioner Flashman to consider Reference No. 407: *Advanced Life Support Unit Alternate Staffing Pilot Program Requirements* at the May 15 meeting, which has been vetted by the Governance Committee

Amendment to the Motion by Commissioner Clute, second by Commissioner Washburn to consider the draft policy first and decisions thereof will determine any action to be taken regarding Long Beach Fire Department's proposal. Amendment accepted by original maker of the motion. Amended Motion carried.

Action: Forward Reference No. 407: *Advanced Life Support Unit Alternate Staffing Pilot Program Requirements* and Long Beach Fire Department's proposal, if available, to the EMS Commission members by April 20 for review prior to the May 15, 2013 meeting.

Responsibility: EMS Agency

(New Business)

None

6. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS/REQUESTS

(Flashman) According to KABC, there are not enough paramedics in LA City.

7. LEGISLATION

Legislation commented on by Ms. Chidester:

- SB 191 (Padilla) Emergency medical services
- SB 535 (Nielsen) Commission on Emergency Medical Services

- SB 573 (Lieu) Vehicles: emergency vehicles

8. EMS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- A handout on the quarterly EMS system data was distributed. Ms. Chidester comments on the report included EMS reports received, bystander CPR, trauma volume, STEMI receiving center volume, ROSC volume, and Approved Stroke Center volume.
- Two handouts regarding Influenza was distributed, Influenza Watch and the FluView. Ms. Chidester reported that there has been a lot of diversion related to emergency department saturation recently due to a large volume of patients presenting with flu-like symptoms in the County.
- Ms. Chidester reported that "wall time" has been a problem in the County and is now getting attention on a statewide basis. The State EMS Authority and California Hospital Association held a meeting in Sacramento to address the issue and try to come up with solutions that address reducing wall time. A white paper was distributed at the meeting in Sacramento. It will be forwarded to the EMS Commission for information when finalized. Commissioners expressed interest in finding out how others are handling wall time.

Action: Include "wall time" on the May 15, 2013 EMS Commission agenda.

Responsibility: EMS Agency

9. ADJOURNMENT

The Meeting was adjourned by Chairman Mosack at 2:51 PM to the meeting of May 15, 2013.

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 15, 2013
 LACOE Conference Room (1st Floor)
 EMS Agency
 10100 Pioneer Blvd.
 Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670**

Recorded by:
Marilyn E. Rideaux
Commission Liaison